JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

Medical Officer of Health,

Tiverton Rural District.

REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1909.

TIVERTON:

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TO THE

TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Report on the Health of the District, during the year ending 31st December, 1909.

The Tiverton Rural District is **128 square miles** in extent, and in a great measure consists of **rolling hills and uplands,** which are drained and watered by the **rivers Exe, Culm and Lowman,** and their tributaries. The hilly nature of the land makes it more suitable for **Stock-raising** and **Dairy-farming** than for other industries which can be carried on more profitably where the land is more level and less broken up by steep hills and deep narrow valleys.

There are **different kinds of soils** to be found in the District, varying from **light loam** to **heavy clay.**

The **subsoils** are also varied, **clay, rocky, marl or gravel,** being found in different locations.

None of the rivers are polluted by effluents from any factories. There are not any factories, within the District, on either the Exe or the Lowman. On the Culm there are:—At Cullompton, a tannery, a paper mill and a woollen mill; at Hele, a paper mill; and at Uffculme, a woollen mill.

The **General Health** of the District has been **very good,** although the **Death-rate for 1909, of 12.63,** is somewhat higher than the rate for 1908, which was only 11.38 per 1,000, but the rise in the rate is easily accounted for, by the number of deaths among old people, caused by the inclement weather experienced during the Spring, Summer and Autumn of the year 1909.

The Death-rate of 12.63 is considerably below the **average Death-rate** of the last ten years, which stands at **14.17.**

The **total** number of **Deaths** which occurred in the District (including the deaths of "Residents" who died in Public Institutions beyond the District), during 1909, from all causes and at all ages was **192,** and out of this number 115 deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and upwards. There were 53 persons who died between the ages of 70 and 80, and 38 between 80 and 90, and 4 over 90 years of age.

On comparing the lists of causes of death for the two years 1908 and 1909, it will be found that there has been a **considerable increase** in the number of deaths caused by the following diseases, viz., **Heart Disease, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Cancer** and **Phthisis,** whereas on the other hand **fewer deaths** have been caused by **Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa,** and **Tuberculous Diseases,** other than Phthisis. Only one death was attributed to Influenza in 1909, being three less than in 1908. There were no deaths from either Measles or Scarlet Fever.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** (taken as including deaths as follows: Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 1, Croup 1, Diarrhœa 1, and Enteritis 1), comes out at the same as it was for 1908, viz., **.4605.**

The Birth-rate of 20.92 is the lowest on record for this District, and is much **below the average** rate for the last ten years, this **latter being 23.97.** The actual number of births which took place during 1909 was 318; of these 159 were boys and 159 were girls. Out of the 318 births, 7 were of illegitimate children. The total number of births in 1908 was 347.

The **Infant Mortality** still stands at a very **favourable figure**, the number of deaths of Infants being **only 21**, which is the same as for 1908. The **Infantile Death-rate** for 1909 is slightly higher than for the preceding year, **being 66.04.** The ten year average of Infant Mortality is 80.25.

Of the 21 deaths of Infants which occurred during 1909, 3 were caused by Whooping Cough, 4 by Premature Birth, 1 by Gastritis, 2 by Congenital Defects, 1 by Syphilis, 2 by Convulsions, 3 by Bronchitis, 3 by Pneumonia, and 2 by "Other Causes."

The **average number** of deaths of Infants has been **29.4** for the ten year period which ended 31st December, 1908.

There were **39 notifications** of Infectious Diseases during the year 1909 for the following causes: Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) 15, Erysipelas 6, and Scarlet Fever 18. Of these cases, 8 Diphtheria and 11 Scarlet Fever, were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where all the patients, with the exception of one case of Diphtheria, which proved fatal, made satisfactory recoveries.

The cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurred in separate localities, and at different times of the year, and were not in any way in the nature of an epidemic.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Before any newly-built Houses can be occupied, a certificate of its fitness for habitation must be obtained from the Council, the said certificate only being granted on recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year the Council have granted **11 of the above-mentioned Certificates,** and plans for 24 new houses were submitted and have now been passed.

As a general rule there is a sufficiency of space about the houses, and the spirit of cleanliness is being inculcated in, and also enforced upon, the inhabitants of the District.

There was **one case of Overcrowding,** which happened at Uffculme, but on steps being taken to abate this nuisance, it was at once **remedied.**

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1909, the **supply** of water has been **sufficient** in all parts of the District.

The town of **Bradninch** and the village of Silverton draw their supplies of water from **Reservoirs** constructed in their neighbourhood.

The **rest of the District** depends upon **Wells** and **Springs** for its Water Supply, the number of these has been augmented during the year by the sinking of 8 new wells, as follows: at Silverton 1, Uffculme 1, Willand 2, Blackborough 1, and at Thorverton 3. There were also 8 old wells at Willand, and 1 at Halberton, cleaned out and rendered fit for use.

The water in the Willand School well is still impure, and is no longer used for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE.

Messrs. Willcox and Raikes, of Birmingham, have prepared plans for the disposal of the sewage at Bradninch, but these plans are still awaiting the sanction of the Local Government Board, before being put in hand.

The Sewage Works at **Thorverton** are working **satisfactorily.**

The **Broad Irrigation System** is working well at **Uffculme.**

The Sewerage System at the **Silverton Boys' School** has been **re-constructed** in such a way as to give satisfaction.

Improvements in the Sewerage arrangements of the District have been effected during the year, in the following localities: A new section of sewer has been constructed in the Lower Town at **Sampford Peverell.** New drainage has been made for Mr. Williams' (Butcher) property, and new closets have been put into Morrell's House.

At **Halberton,** new drainage has been laid at Salter's Dairy, Rockville, and Mr. Partridge's Corner, also a new drain in the Lower Town.

At **Bradninch,** new drainage at Towell's Cottages, Cullompton Hill.

At **Thorverton,** a new manhole to the sewer in Silver Street.

At **Uffculme,** new drainage and two w.c.'s at Hill Park, also new drainage for Mrs. Dickinson's Cottages.

At **Cullompton,** new drainage in Middle Mill Lane.

At **Butterleigh,** new drainage and offices at the New Inn.

At **Oakford,** new closet and drainage for the Rectory Cottages.

At **Templeton,** a new earth-closet for the School-house.

At **Willand,** new drainage at Woodlands.

At **Silverton,** new offices and drainage at the Boys' School.

At **Cullompton,** new drainage at Richards' Dairy, Lower Mill Lane, also at Colebrook Dairy and Colebrook Court. At Mr. Bowerman's, an alteration has been made in the drains, and a new connection made with the main sewer

HOUSE REFUSE.

In the principal streets of **Cullompton** the house refuse is **removed** by the Town Scavenger **each day,** and in the less important streets **bi-weekly.** During the year an extra Scavenger has been employed, whose duties are to attend to the flushing of the sewers and cleansing of the water-tables. There is a proposal on foot to purchase a horse broom, as it is believed that by this method the streets can be more rapidly and more thoroughly cleaned.

In **Bradninch** the Scavenger removes the house refuse once a week.

In all other parts of the District this duty has to be seen to by the occupants of the houses, and there has not been any complaint of this work not having been carried out.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The new order for the notification of paupers suffering from Phthisis has been put in force, and six notifications have been received. All of these cases were visited and inspected, and the relatives were instructed what precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Two of these cases have since proved fatal. The premises used by the patients have been visited and disinfected.

Arrangements can be made to have persons suffering from Phthisis sent to Didworthy Sanatorium, to undergo the open-air treatment.

The District Council has made the offer to the public, to disinfect any house where a death from Phthisis has occurred, but unfortunately the public so far, have not shown much appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the offer.

I regret to have to report that there is an increase in 1909, in the number of deaths due to Phthisis, although it is still slightly below the average of the last eight years. The records for these years are as follows:

Year.		Phthisis.		Other Tub. Diseases.		Total.
1901	...	14	...	3	...	17
1902	...	16	...	4	...	20
1903	...	10	...	8	...	18
1904	..	13	...	5	...	18
1905	...	8	...	3	...	11
1906	...	8	...	2	...	10
1907	...	6	...	5	...	11
1908	...	5	...	5	...	10
		81 average 10.1		35 average 4.37		115 av. 14.37
1909	...	**9**	...	**3**	...	**12**

SCHOOLS.

The Schools at **Willand** were **closed** for **three weeks** from 27th January, by order of the District Council, on account of an outbreak of **Diphtheria.**

On 22nd October, the **Hockworthy** Schools were ordered to be **closed** for **one month,** the cause being, **Whooping Cough.**

MILK.

The **supply of Milk** throughout the District is generally considered to be **good** and **sufficient,** but no samples have been tested to ascertain whether they harbour tubercle bacilli.

The **Dairies of the District** have been inspected, as to the condition of the water supply, air space, cleanliness and general character, according to the requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Act of 1899, and Farmers and Dairymen have been fully instructed as to the provisions of the new order.

In the District there are **56 registered Dairies,** and, upon inspection, these have been found to be generally **clean and wholesome.** There has been considerable improvement made in this direction during the year, and many alterations and advantageous changes in the Farmhouse Dairies are now in hand.

FOOD.

No arrangements have as yet been made by the District Council for the inspection of the meat of the District.

There has been no appointment made of an Inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection. No carcases or parts of carcases were found to be tuberculous.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 24 Slaughterhouses in the District distributed as follows: Bradninch 3, Cullompton 7, Halberton 2, Kentisbeare 1, Sampford Peverell 2, Stoodleigh 1, Willand 1, Silverton 3, Thorverton 2, and Uffculme 2.

Two **notifications** to **whitewash** the Slaughterhouses were given in **Bradninch,** and three in **Cullompton,** with these exceptions they were all, upon inspection, found to be clean and properly carried on.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are **32 Bakehouses** in the District situated in the following localities: At Bradninch 5, Bickleigh 1, Cullompton 8, Halberton 1, Kentisbeare 1, Oakford 1, Silverton 4, Sampford Peverell 3, Thorverton 3, Uffculme 4, Willand 1.

Notifications to whitewash were served to one in **Bradninch,** one in **Cullompton,** six in **Silverton,** and one in **Uffculme.** The others were all found to be clean and well carried on.

Note: One bakehouse has been closed at Hele and one at Cullompton.

There are **no underground Bakehouses** in the District.

MIDWIVES' ACT.

There are 16 Nurses registered under this Act. Their registers and appliances are inspected from time to time, and these have been found to be in good order, especially those in the possession of the Nurses who belong to the Devon County Nursing Association, and their registers are always kept up-to-date. All the women are clean in their dress and their houses are in good sanitary condition.

METHOD OF DEALING WITH NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector visits and advises the responsible parties as to the abatement of the nuisance. If his recommendations are not carried out, the matter is then reported to the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Tiverton Rural District, working in conjunction with the Borough of Tiverton, maintains an Isolation Hospital. The results obtained in the working of this Hospital have been satisfactory.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease, in the Tiverton Rural District, which were removed to the Isolation Hospital during the past year, was 19; only one of these ended fatally.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of infected premises has been effected by Ligner's Disinfecting Apparatus, the disinfectant used being Formaldehide. Sulphur is also employed for this purpose.

Clothing and bedding have been disinfected by the Steam Apparatus belonging to the Isolation Hospital.

The **Medical Inspection of School Children** has been taken over in the Rural District by special **whole-time Officers,** who have been appointed for this duty by the Devon County Council.

In conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, **House-to House Visitation** has been carried out throughout the District.

There are not any **Offensive Trades** in the District.

There is not any **Common Lodging-House** in the District.

All Factories in the District have been provided with **Fire Escapes** in accordance with the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	1907.		1908.		1909.
Birth Rate ...	**21.44**	—	**22.83**	—	**20.92**
Death Rate ...	**14.27**	—	**11.38**	—	**12.63**
Infant Mortality ...	**95.09**	—	**60.52**	—	**66.04**
Zymotic Death-rate	**.789**	—	**.4605**	—	**.4605**

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. Tiverton Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

To the Tiverton Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following summary of the Sanitary work, carried out during the past year.

BICKLEIGH.

Various works in connection with the Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

BRADNINCH.

Water Supply.—A good service of water from the town mains has been given throughout the year. Regulations for the better control of the supply have been adopted, and are now in force.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The scheme proposed by Messrs. Willcox and Raikes, of Birmingham, is awaiting the final sanction of the Local Government Board.

House Drainage, &c.—*Mr. Towell's Cottages at Cullompton Hill.*—New closet, drainage, and water supply for flushing purposes.

End Street.—New drainage to Slaughterhouse Yard.

House Refuse.—The arrangements made for a weekly removal are working satisfactorily.

BUTTERLEIGH.

New Inn.—New offices and drains have been constructed.

CLAYHANGER.

Water Supply.—*Nutcombe Cottages.*—The well has been cleaned out, and the pump put in proper repair; the springs, however, are low during the summer months.

CULLOMPTON.

No Public Water Supply.—The wells at the lower part of the town are liable to pollution.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The sewers are working fairly satisfactorily, and there is no nuisance at the Outfall, where the sewage after passing through a Resolving Tank, is dealt with by broad irrigation over meadows.

House Drainage, &c.—*Middle Mill Lane, Mr. James' Slaughterhouse.*—New drain constructed, and connection made with sewer.

Lower Mill Lane, Richards' Dairy.—New drain.

Colebrook Lane, Colebrook Dairy.—New drainage.

Colebrook Lane, Colebrook Court.—New drainage.

Hayne Cottages.—New drainage.

Newlands Cottages.—New drainage.

Wheatcroft Farm.—New closet and drainage.

Mr. Bowerman's, Fore Street.—Alteration of drains, new intercepting chamber constructed.

Scavenging, Flushing of Sewers, Removal of House Refuse, &c.—Regulations have been formulated for the better control of this department, which will when carried into operation be a decided improvement.

HALBERTON.

No Public Water Supply.—The supply from wells, and overflowing springs is abundant, and of good quality generally.

Sewerage.—The sewers are working well; the effluent discharge pipe from the Resolving Tank in the Sewage Meadow should be extended, as it is at present near the Church path.

House Drainage, &c.—*Rockville.*—New drainage.

Mr. Partridge's.—New drainage.

Mr. T. Chave's.—New drainage and w.c.

Mrs. Harris' Premises.—New drainage.

Mr. Dymond's Premises.—Alteration of drains, and construction of Inspection Chamber.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

KENTISBEARE.

No Public Water Supply.—*Blackborough, Wyndham Estate.*—New well sunk and pump fixed.

House Drainage, &c.—*Wyndham Estate, High Street.*—New drainage.

Wyndham Estate, Silver Street.—New drainage.

Bradfield Estate, Woodbarton Cottages.—New drainage.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

OAKFORD.

No Public Water Supply.

House Drainage, &c.—*Rectory Cottages.*—New w.c. and drainage.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

SAMPFORD PEVERELL.

No Public Water Supply.—One well cleaned out in Higher Town.

Sewerage.—New six-inch sewer constructed in Lower Town.

House Drainage, &c.—*Morell's House.*—Two new water closets and new drains.

Mr. Williams'.—New drainage and connection to sewer.

Mr. Taudevin's.—New drainage and connection to sewer.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

SILVERTON.

Public Water Supply.—A constant service has been maintained throughout the year; the water is of good quality. Two private connections only have been granted.

Sewerage.—The modern sewers are working fairly satisfactorily. Plans have been prepared for the construction of a section of nine-inch stoneware socket pipe sewer in Fore Street, to replace an agricultural pipe sewer.

House Drainage, &c.—*Boys' School.*—A complete system of new offices and drainage.

Mr. Pridham's.—New drains to slaughterhouse and pigsties.

Poundsland Cottages.—New drainage.

TEMPLETON.

School House.—New earth closet constructed.

THORVERTON.

No Public Water Supply.—New wells have been sunk and pumps fixed, in Bullen Street, Jericho Street, and Vicarage Road.

Sewerage.—The sewers are working satisfactorily, with the exception of a section in Silver Street. In May last, this became choked; on opening it was found this was due to root fibres, which had penetrated into the sewer; as the manholes were a long distance apart, an intermediate one was constructed, and the sewer cleared. In my report on this matter, I pointed out that there would probably be a recurrence of the evil, in which case it would be advisable to open up this section in order to ascertain the weak place in the sewer.

Outfall Works.—These are working well; the irrigation area is kept clean and well guttered.

The Automatic Flushing Tanks are in good order, and the Caretaker has performed his duties in a satisfactory manner.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

UFFCULME.

No Public Water Supply.—A new well has been sunk at Leigh Farm, Craddock.

Sewerage.—The sewers throughout are working well, and no nuisance arises at the Outfall.

Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Furze & Co., Brewers, for a supply of clear water to the Automatic Flushing Tank in Kitwell Street, as the present supply chokes the syphon.

House Drainage, &c.—*Hill Park.*—Two new water closets, new drains, and a Resolving Tank has been constructed.

Uffculme Down Road, Mrs. Dickinson's Cottages.—New drainage.

High Street, Mr. Williams', Butcher, &c.—New bathroom and water closet.

Park Farm.—Two new water closets and drainage.

Stenhill Cottages.—New drainage.

Bradfield Kennels.—New drainage.

House Refuse.—No public removal.

WILLAND.

No Public Water Supply.—Two new wells have been sunk, one of which at the Dairy Factory is over 400 feet in depth. Eight wells have been cleaned out; the water from the School pump is still unfit for drinking, and is used only for flushing purposes.

House Drainage, &c.—*Parkfield Terrace.*—A new system of drains has been laid throughout, and closets reconstructed.

Station Terrace.—	Do.	Do.	Do.
Woodlands.—	Do.	Do.	Do.

Church Cottages.—New gullies and drains repaired.

WATER SUPPLY.

As stated above, Bradninch and Silverton are the only places which have a public supply, the rest of the District being served by shallow wells, pumps, and overflowing springs.

These supplies are generally wholesome, but in some cases the water is discoloured during heavy rains.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Forty samples have been taken, nineteen of which were found unfit for use as drinking water. Most of these have been dealt with satisfactorily.

CERTIFICATES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Certificates have been granted for eleven new houses.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are thirty-two Bakehouses in the District, none of which are underground. These have been regularly inspected, and are found generally to be kept clean and in good condition. Where it has been found necessary to give notices to whitewash, they have been complied with forthwith.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are twenty-four of these; they are registered, and are kept clean, and in good condition.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

There are fifty-six registered Dairies; these are kept clean throughout, and care is exercised in the cleansing of the various utensils.

Farmhouse Dairies.—I have made numerous inspections in accordance with the "Regulations," and issued notices to the owners and occupiers of premises where found necessary.

A considerable amount of work has been, and is still being carried out.

PIGSTIES.

Several new Pigsties have been built during the year.

OVERCROWDING.

Two cases only have occurred, one in a Cottage at Cruwys Morchard, and one in a Workshop at Uffculme. Notices were given, and the nuisances at once abated.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

Frequent inspections have been made in conjunction with the Medical Officer.

SCHOOLS.

The whole of these are kept clean and in good condition. Sanitation is well attended to.

The Boys' School at Silverton has been considerably enlarged, and new offices and drainage constructed.

Similar work is in progress at the Sampford Peverell School.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory; there is no overcrowding, and suitable means of escape are provided in case of fire.

WORKROOMS.

Numerous Inspections have been made; they are found to be kept clean, and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

As mentioned above, one case of overcrowding has been dealt with.

OUT-WORKERS.

At present, none are employed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-nine notifications have been received.

Disinfection has in all cases been carried out.

SCAVENGING.

This, throughout the District, has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Twenty-two sets of plans have been submitted and approved by the Council.

FIRE BRIGADES.

Bradninch.—Manual Engine and Appliances.

Cullompton.—Two Manuals and Appliances.

Sampford Peverell.—Small Manual and Appliances.

Silverton.—Manual Engine and Appliances.

The whole of the Apparatus is kept in good working order, and the various Brigades are periodically drilled.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ROBT. ELLIS, M.I. Mun. E.,

Sanitary Inspector.